Smallpox vaccine prevents smallpox, but requires very careful use.

What side effects should I expect?

Most people have normal, usually mild, reactions, such as itching, swollen lymph nodes, sore arm, fever, headache, body ache, mild rash, or fatigue. These symptoms may peak 8 to 12 days after vaccination.

In the past, about 1,000 out of every 1,000,000 (1 million) vaccinated people experienced reactions that were serious, but not life-threatening. Most of these reactions involved spread of vaccine virus elsewhere on the body, especially the eye.

In the past, between 14 and 52 people out of 1,000,000 vaccinated for the first time experienced potentially life-threatening reactions. These reactions included serious skin reactions and inflammation of the brain (encephalitis). From past experience, 1 or 2 people in 1,000,000 who receive smallpox vaccine may die as a result.

Serious side effects are generally more rare after revaccination, compared to first vaccinations.

We will try to reduce the risk of side effects by actively looking for and exempting people whose immune system is not working fully and people who have or had certain skin conditions.

To avoid spreading the vaccine virus: DON'T TOUCH THE VACCINATION SITE!

Vaccine virus accidentally spread to eye. She recovered with a scarred eyelid.

How should I care for the vaccination site?

Three Key Points:

1. Don't touch your vaccination site.
2. If you touch it by accident, wash your hands right away.
3. Don't let others touch your vaccination site or materials that touched it.

Vaccine virus (vaccinia) is present at the vaccination site for about 14 to 21 days, until the scab falls off. This means other people can get infected if they come in contact with virus from your arm. You can spread the virus if you touch your blister and then touch another person.

Most vaccination sites can be left unbandaged, especially when not in close contact with other persons. When in close contact with others, wear sleeves covering the site and/or use an absorbent bandage to make a touch-resistant barrier. Dispose of bandages in sealed or double plastic bags. You may carefully add a little bleach to the bag, if desired, to kill the virus.

Keep the site dry. Airing will speed healing. Do not use creams or ointments; they will delay healing and can spread the virus. Long-sleeved clothing worn during the day and at night can protect the site from dirt. Launder clothing and linens that touch the site in hot water with soap or bleach.

Normal bathing can continue. Dry the vaccination site last, so the towel does not rub or spread virus elsewhere. Don't allow others to use that towel until laundered. Don't use public towels, unless laundry workers are alerted that you were vaccinated. Use a waterproof adhesive bandage if you exercise enough to cause sweat to drip. Avoid swimming and hot tubs.

Take good care of your vaccination site. Keep this sheet and read it again from time to time.

Smallpox Vaccination Program

- **For information about vaccine or policy, Military Vaccines (MILVAX):** www.smallpox.army.mil E-Mail: vaccines@amedd.army.mil Toll Free: 877.GET.VACC
- **Vaccine Healthcare Centers:** www.vhcinfo.org E-Mail: askvhc@amedd.army.mil Phone:: 202.782.0411
- **CDC National Immunization Hotline:** 800.232.2522

Information for Civilian Healthcare Providers: If a Reservist or Active Duty Military member requires medical attention that may be an adverse event caused by a military vaccination, please provide the appropriate care and contact the following for authorization and payment:

The Military Treatment Facility (MTF) where the member is enrolled, OR contact

The Military Medical Support Office (MMSO) 888-647-6676 if the member is not enrolled to an MTF.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SMALLPOX VACCINE

For more information
www.smallpox.army.mil
e-mail us at:
vaccines@amedd.army.mil
877-GET-VACC

6 Jan 03

Local point of contact

Smallpox would disrupt military missions. Smallpox is contagious and deadly.

What is smallpox?

Smallpox is a very serious disease; it is contagious and sometimes fatal.

Smallpox is an infection caused by a germ called variola virus. About 3 out of 10 people infected with smallpox will die. Survivors are often scarred and, in rare cases may be blinded.

Smallpox spreads slowly, usually by face-to-face contact for an hour or more with a contagious person. People with smallpox become contagious just before a rash begins and just after their temperature goes over 101°F (38.3°C). They stay contagious until all their scabs fall off.

The symptoms of smallpox begin with high fever, head and body aches, and sometimes vomiting. A rash follows that spreads and progresses to raised bumps that crust, scab, and fall off after about three weeks, leaving a pitted scar.

Smallpox can be spread by contact with inanimate objects (such as clothing, towels, linens), but this would be uncommon.

Smallpox can be prevented through the use of smallpox vaccine.

Preserving the health and safety of our people are our top concerns.

What is the smallpox vaccine?

Smallpox vaccine contains live vaccinia virus (not smallpox virus) to protect against smallpox. This same vaccine was given to millions of Americans, including Service Members during World War I, World War II, and until the 1980s.

FDA recently licensed a limited supply of smallpox vaccine made by Wyeth Laboratories called *Dryvax*®. Vaccine used for Service Members passes all tests required by the FDA.

The World Health Organization (WHO) used smallpox vaccine to eradicate natural smallpox from the planet. After a single smallpox vaccination, about 95% of people develop protection within 10 days.

Most Service Members have not been vaccinated against smallpox. The rest probably have little immunity left from vaccinations given years ago.

Who should not get smallpox vaccine?

In a smallpox outbreak, anyone exposed to smallpox should get the vaccine. When it is not an emergency outbreak situation, some people should not get smallpox vaccine, including:

- People whose immune system is not working fully (due to disease, medication, or radiation). Examples: HIV/AIDS, cancer, organ transplant, immune deficiency.
- People diagnosed with eczema or atopic dermatitis, now or earlier in life.
- People with current skin conditions, such as burns, impetigo, contact dermatitis, chickenpox, shingles, psoriasis, or uncontrolled acne, until the condition clears up.
- Pregnant women.
- People with a household contact who meets any of the conditions above.
- Breastfeeding mothers.
- Anyone who had problems after previous doses or is allergic to the vaccine or any of its components.

➢ People who have been directly exposed to the smallpox virus should get the vaccine regardless of their health status.

➢ Women should avoid getting pregnant for 4 weeks after smallpox vaccination.

Smallpox protection helps our Global War on Terrorism.

New threats require new measures for force protection.

How do you care for the smallpox vaccination site?

✓ Don't touch any smallpox vaccination site. Wash your hands frequently. Don't let other people touch your site or materials that touched it.

✓ Until your scab falls off, avoid close contact with people who cannot receive the vaccine. Do not share a bed, bunk, or cot with them. Do not share clothes, towels, linen, or toiletries.

✓ Wear sleeves to cover the site. Use bandages, if needed. Dispose of bandages in sealed or double plastic bags. You may carefully add a little bleach to the bag, if desired, to kill the virus.

✓ Keep site dry, except normal bathing. Avoid rubbing. Avoid swimming.

✓ Launder clothing, towels, & sheets in hot water with detergent or bleach. When the scab falls off, flush it down the toilet. Wash your hands.

✓ Follow these instructions carefully, or you could harm yourself or others.

Reporting adverse events:

✓ Adverse events after vaccination should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Submit VAERS reports on-line at **www.vaers.org** or call **800.822.7967**.

Smallpox Vaccination Site:
expected response,
Day 4 through Day 8 after vaccination.

Note:
If your vaccination site does **NOT** look like the pictures below, see your healthcare provider.

See also:
www.bt.cdc.gov/training/smallpoxvaccine/reactions/normal.html#

What should I expect at the vaccination site?

If vaccination is successful, a red and itchy bump develops at the vaccination site in 2 to 4 days. Over the next few days, the bump becomes a blister and fills with pus. During the second week, the blister begins to dry up and a scab forms. The scab falls off in the third week, leaving a scar. People vaccinated for the first time may have a stronger reaction than those being revaccinated.

Anyone who does not get the expected reaction needs to be revaccinated. If you have a question or concern about the smallpox vaccination site, contact your primary-care manager, medical department representative, or healthcare provider.

Virus is present on the skin at the vaccination site until the scab falls off. Be careful not to touch it, so you don't spread the virus elsewhere, especially to the eyes, nose, mouth or genitalia.

Wash your hands frequently. Alcohol-based hand-cleansers or soap and water are both effective.